

BANKERS FAVOR BUILDING ZONES

Confer with Real Estate Interests on Proposed City Plan.

CONTROL OF LOANS MAY BECOME FACTOR

Commission's Maps in Hands of Board of Estimate, and Early Action Is Expected.

Bank officials who will exercise extensive control over future building operations through the loaning of money met with the Advisory Council of the Real Estate Interests in the Equitable Life Assurance Building, 121 Broadway, yesterday afternoon, to discuss the steering of New York toward a definite city plan. They unanimously approved the proposed zoning districts and restrictions. They indicated individually the "Save New York" campaign promulgated by citizens in the shopping district.

Cyrus C. Miller, chairman of the executive committee of the council, presided.

All Boroughs Covered.

Edward M. Bassett, chairman of the commission and former Public Service commissioner, explained how three maps for each borough had been prepared, one pertaining to building height, another to building area, and a third to building character. A tentative report to the Board of Estimate would be published within a few days, he said.

"Although I do not look for immediate action on the question," said Mr. Bassett, "I believe that the zone plan will be settled within six months. A few pessimists look for a delay of several years."

Details of the borough maps were explained by George R. Ford, consultant to the commission and an expert on city planning. He outlined the general aims of the redistricting plan to restrict the main thoroughfares for business and unobjectionable manufacturing. Other streets will be kept for residential purposes. Large areas along the waterfronts and the railroads have been designated as unreserved. Mr. Ford exhibited maps to illustrate the commission's recommendations as to restrictions of building height, varying with the width of the streets, and court-yard setbacks, varying with the height and character of the buildings.

Banker Supports Plan.

John J. Sullivan, controller of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, Bank, suggested that a meeting of bank officials be held to study this city planning problem. "Money lenders have indeed been in a chastened spirit since the demoralization of real estate," he said. "I speak for an institution that has something like \$50,000,000 invested in New York, and I can say that we approve of this zone plan. We have always studied the question of getting out of our money. Whenever it is apparent that a building will be a mistake in its environment, we say that we do not care to undertake that character of a loan. We are interested directly in the movement of the commission to save the shopping zone from industrial invasion."

Sees Danger in Delay.

Chairman J. H. Burton of the "Save New York" citizens' committee said that he was afraid that the zone commission's plan would become a law soon enough to protect the shopping district. The movement started by department stores, property owners, hotels and banks in the retail trade district was intended to supplement the work of the commission. "If the members of the zone commission and of the Board of Estimate will endorse this plan as individuals then it will be practically as binding as if it were a law," Mr. Burton added.

Edgar A. Tiedeman, real estate broker, said that it was useless to provide restrictions in the Murray Hill district south of Fifty-ninth Street, because that would be a business zone inevitably.

Would Extend Shopping Zone.

Restrictions starting at Thirty-third Street would not keep the garment makers off Fifth Avenue in the lunch hour, George Chapman, manager of the Fifth Avenue Building, said. He advocated extending the shopping zone to Twenty-third Street, including the district between Fourth and Sixth avenues.

Favorable comment on the zone plan was made by G. T. Mortimer, of the Equitable Life Building; Henry A. Schenck, president of the Bowers Savings Bank; Louis V. Bright, president of the Lawyers' Title Insurance and Trust Company; and J. W. Colcord, president of the Title Guarantee and Trust Company.

Chairman Bassett said that he would try to have the "Save New York" project incorporated in the forthcoming report of the commission provided it did not conflict with the plan to redistrict the city as a whole.

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has 1000 sheets to the roll printed on the label. That's a definite quantity guarantee. It's easy to make 500 sheets look as large as 1000 sheets—that's the kind you usually get at bargain sales of 8, 10 or 12 rolls for a quarter.

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Scott's is soft, white and absorbent. 10c a roll.

Sanit-Tissue Toilet Paper. The balsam treatment makes it soft and clothlike. 2500 sheets in carton of 3 rolls 25c. Ask your dealer.

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FEDERAL AMENDMENT LINES UP MIDDLE WEST

Women Hold Series of Conferences This Month and Next.

Suffragists of the Middle and West states will organize for the Federal amendment at a series of Congressional conferences in this month and next. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National Suffrage Association, who returned yesterday from a similar series of conferences in New England, announced that the interest among suffragists for the Federal amendment by non-militant methods was growing at a rate which was a revelation even to her optimistic soul. These conferences are for the purpose of countering the effect of the work of the Congressional Union, whose members believe in the militant method, and the anti-Democratic party campaign. Conferences will be held in Columbus, Ohio, on March 20 and 21; at Detroit, on March 22 and 23; and Milwaukee, on March 24 and 25. In New York, South Dakota and other Western States will stage their conferences in April.

Mrs. Catt reported that New England women's interest in the Federal amendment was particularly keen because of the rock-ribbed constitutions of those states, which make the task of obtaining suffrage through the individual states very difficult. "In Maine and Connecticut," said Mrs. Catt, "amendment of the state constitutions is so difficult as to be well nigh impossible. In Maine, for instance, an amendment has to be referred to a two-thirds majority vote in both houses before it can go to a referendum. Conditions are even worse in Vermont, for although an amendment requires only a majority vote in the House and a two-thirds vote in the Senate, the first time it comes before the Legislature, it may not reach the people for ten years. This is due to the fact that the constitution can be amended only once in ten years."

WATER RIGHTS BILL PASSED BY SENATE

Shields Measure Gives River Power to Private Capital.

Washington, March 8.—The Senate tonight, after four weeks of debate, passed the Shields bill to provide for development of waterpower in navigable waters by private capital. The vote was 45 to 22. Conservation champions fought hard to amend the measure, but without avail.

Several Senators voted for the bill who had opposed it during the debate. One, Senator Walsh, said he considered it bad legislation, but firmly believed it would be amended when it reached the House. Those who abstained from the vote were Senators Ashurst, Borah, Chamberlain, Chilton, Cummins, Gronna, Hollis, Hunting, James, Kenyon, La Follette, Lane, Lee, Lewis, Martin, Newlands, Norris, Poindexter, Reed, Sheppard and Weeks.

A final effort to prevent a vote on the measure and return it to the committee was made by Senator Hunting, whose motion to recommit was beaten, 49 to 19. An amendment by Senator Chilton requiring the Secretary of War to decide contests for permits to build dams in favor of the applicants offering the lowest priced service to the public was defeated, 50 to 21.

Bill Attacked by Reed.

Senator Reed attacked the provision of the bill which provides that a contest be decided in favor of the applicant able to guarantee the best construction, declaring that this would result in the best sites going to the interests now operating power plants. He declared the measure would grant corporations absolute control of the country's waterpower for a long time. "At the end of the fifty years in the grant," Senator Reed said, "the government can enjoy the blessed privilege of taking over the plants and paying for them the full value. I believe that back of this law which would grant these enormous powers is the same crowd that was back of the Coosa River project in Alabama."

The Shields bill had been under almost continuous debate since the passage of the Philippine bill, February 4. It was opposed by the National Conservation Association, of which Gifford Hitchcock is president. Senator Walsh made a hard but losing fight to obtain for the Federal government compensation for public land withdrawn for use in dam construction on the basis of water rights. His amendment was opposed by Senator Shafroth and other Senators of the public land states, who contended that the government had no control over waterways except in so far as they concerned their navigability.

Substitute Measure Rejected.

Senator Hastings and other conservation champions sought vainly to substitute a measure based on the Wisconsin water power law and retaining with Congress control of power rights. Senator Newlands' motion without success to attach to the bill his measure providing a waterways commission and appropriating \$50,000,000 annually for ten years for flood control, waterway improvement and soil protection.

As adopted, the bill permits the construction of dams in navigable waters under licenses issued by the Secretary of War and gives grantees the right to operate power plants for fifty years, after which time the Federal government may take over the plant after given two years' notice and paying a fair value to be determined by the Secretary of War and the court or by proceedings in the United States courts.

Regulation of rates and services is placed with the states in which the plants are located, or, if interstate commerce is involved, with the Interstate Commerce Commission on appeals when the states involved are unable to agree on reasonable rates and adequate service.

The bill also provides that no works shall be operated in any combination to limit the output of electric power or in restraint of trade.

THEATRE TO DO CHURCH DUTY

Those Who Won't Seek Religion Will Have Religion Brought to Them.

Those blasé individuals who refuse to go to church are to be reached by religion through the simple device of sending the church to them. Ministers of many denominations, having agreed that Broadway is the place to seek the intellectual, the well-to-do, the cultured and the more or less moral citizens of New York, have agreed to take the church and their teachings there.

The plan, as announced by the Rev. Samuel Colcord, is to hold a series of services for this, the most difficult class to reach with spiritual teachings, at the Candler Theatre, Broadway, on Sunday evening, Dr. Colcord added that this class was by far the most neglected by religious influences of any in the city.

Dr. Colcord will be supported by the Rev. Charles E. Jefferson, of the Broadway Tabernacle Congregational Church; Drs. Coffin, Merrill, Parkhurst and Atterbury, Presbyterian; Roland, Redgwick and Robbins, Episcopal; Goddard, Methodist; Woolfson, Baptist; Russell and McLeod, Collociate Reformed; and others whose names will be announced later.

What Is the Gary Plan?

By ALICE BARROWS FERNANDEZ

Tribune readers will find in this department a clear and authoritative account of the Wirt school system, proposed for this city. Questions of parents and teachers will be gladly answered. The department will appear on Mondays and Thursdays.

WHAT THE WIRT PLAN DOES.

It takes children off the streets and keeps them wholesomely busy at work, study and play for six or seven hours a day.

It gives all children just as much academic work as the traditional school, but by lengthening the school day it gives time for practical shop work, science, drawing, music, auditorium and play for all children.

WHAT THE WIRT PLAN MEANS.

To every parent—A chance to give his child the enriched educational opportunities usually reserved for the children of the favored few.

To teachers—No more hours of teaching; more congenial work.

To the community—Better citizens, better schools for less cost.

Parent of P. S. 89 Says Gary Plan Has Made Great Improvement in Brooklyn School—Parents Should Make Plan Successful.

"STEP FORWARD!"

"Dear Madam: There has been much said for and against the Gary system. It took Mr. Wirt from Indiana to come to New York City to show what could be done with the proper system in our public schools."

"He has caused a lot of professional jealousy and stirred up considerable activity. This is to be expected when an attempt is made by our city to cut its expenses because so many are affected. This failed, for the wise taxpayer did not mind the city spending \$10,000 to find a way to save something on so large a sum as \$40,000,000. I see no reason why the authorities should not engage outside talent, if they choose, for the advancement of our educational system, as the taxpayer demands this of them. Many boast that New York City contains everything, and their heads swell with pride, but others know that George Washington, the Father of our country; Abraham Lincoln, the savior of our country, and Woodrow Wilson, our present man at the helm, did not come out of New York City."

CONDITIONS IN P. S. 89 BEFORE THE GARY PLAN WERE INTOLERABLE.

"Public School 89 is proof of the value of the Gary system, where it has been tried out against a storm of opposition from all parts of the city. Before the Gary system was inaugurated in this school, I was one of a committee of parents and members of the Vanderveer Park Taxpayers' Association to visit Public School 89, and we found the conditions deplorable. Several classes of small children were seated on the cement floor of the basement. A recent visit showed that this had been overcome and many other advance steps made for the better development of the children."

MAKE HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS.

"Teachers and parents who are knocking the city authorities for their 'step forward' should weigh up the before and after situation from a knowledge of facts, bearing in mind that Public School 89 was built to accommodate twelve hundred children, and now has about two thousand. Those who are properly interested and wish to see the city get full benefit for the money spent will make friendly suggestions to the proper authorities that will help to improve what they have been encouraged to start by friends interested in improving conditions with no axes to grind. If the Gary system is not just ideal, help to improve it. It is the best thing that has come to New York City in many a day. It has made sleepy parents and teachers wake up, and it will do the same for the children. Push it along, even if it is a little more work for the teachers in the beginning, who only work five days a week and have about three months' vacation every year, while the taxpayers who pay the bills average six days a week, with about two weeks' vacation each year. If the system is given the support of the teachers and higher authorities, there is no doubt that they will find the work more congenial and hours of labor no longer than under the old system. STEP FORWARD!"

JOHN J. DOUGLASS.

"Brooklyn, March 7, 1916."

Our correspondent's suggestion that the public learn the facts about the "before and after situation" in P. S. 89 is a good one, and prompts us to give a few of these facts for the benefit of those who have not followed the situation closely.

P. S. 89—BEFORE TAKING THE GARY PLAN.

As Mr. Douglass has stated, a committee of parents and members of the Vanderveer Park Taxpayers' Association investigated P. S. 89 and found the following conditions:

1. There were twenty-six classrooms in P. S. 89 and forty classes of children, i. e., fourteen more classes than there were classrooms.

2. Twelve of the forty classes had the regular five-hour day. The remaining twenty-eight classes of children had four hours of classroom work and one hour for "opening exercises and study in auditorium and playground."

3. The congestion was so great that the auditorium was used for study purposes without partitions or separating one class from another. The basement cellar rooms, eight feet below the street level, were used as study rooms. When it rained, nine classes were forced to use these five rooms. Benches were not provided, and the children had to sit either on the bare basement floor or on their books. The teachers were forced to wear their overcoats, furs and hats to keep warm, and on rainy days the water leaked through the walls and flooded the floor.

4. Children from one family were attending school at different hours and this resulted in their leaving home and returning for luncheon at different hours, to the great annoyance of the mothers. For example, one father testified that under the Ettinger part-time system then in operation in 89, "one of his children came home for luncheon at 11:30 and the other two at 12:30; the first returning at 12:30, the second at 1:20 and the third at 1:50."

5. In some cases wardrobes that were built for one classroom were used by two classes.

The parents and taxpayers demanded immediate relief from this situation, and on October 31, 1914, the president of the Board of Education asked William Wirt to see what could be done to relieve the situation by reorganizing the school on the Gary plan. This is what has been done:

P. S. 89—AFTER TAKING THE GARY PLAN.

There are forty-two classes of children, half of whom use twenty-one classrooms, while the other half are in the auditorium and play and special activities, such as cooking and shop, etc. When the half of the school which has been using the classrooms finish their academic work in the morning, they move into the playground and auditorium and special activities, and the children in special activities move into the classrooms.

Not only has congestion in this school been entirely eliminated, but the school day has been lengthened to six hours; all children get just as much time for academic instruction in the three R's as before the reorganization; in addition, the children get fifty minutes in the auditorium every day, fifty minutes in play, and fifty to one hundred minutes in special activities, shops, etc.

Under this programme it is possible for all children in the same family to come home to luncheon at the same time.

Moreover, the system is so flexible that if parents do not wish their children to play, they can be excused from the play period, or they may be excused early in the afternoon to take private music lessons at home and still not lose any of their essential academic work. Up to the present time the school has been greatly handicapped by lack of equipment. Fifty thousand dollars has been appropriated, however, to erect an annex which will contain a swimming pool, gymnasium, branch of the public library and shops. When that annex is completed and the playground bought, the parents and taxpayers will be receiving for their children all the advantages enumerated above for less than one-third the amount of money it would have cost to relieve congestion and give school seats only to all the children in the school.

TO DEBATE ON GARY SYSTEM

N. Y. League of Unitarian Women to Consider Merits of Plan.

A special conference to consider the merits of the Gary system will be held by the New York League of Unitarian Women on Tuesday, March 14, at 3 o'clock. The meeting will take place in the city house of the Church of the 64.

Messiah, Park Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street.

There will be a debate and a general discussion of the Gary plan, in which the general public will be invited to take part. Mrs. Alice Barrows Fernandez, director of the New York Vocational Survey, will present the case for the system, and the case against it will be led by William E. Grady, principal of the city house of the Church of the 64.

EDISON GUARDED BATTERY SECRETS

Accuses "Some Navy Representative" of Making Disclosures.

GERMANY UNABLE TO USE INVENTION

After Buying Patent, Teutons Could Not Make Proper Chemicals, Inventor Declares.

If anybody has been guilty of a breach of ethics in divulging the secrets of the Edison storage battery for submarines, Thomas A. Edison is certain that it is some representative of the navy and not himself. The inventor made this fact plain yesterday in a statement in which he branded as false the published statements that he had issued a catalogue that disclosed the secrets.

Of almost equal importance was the inventor's announcement that Germany, looked upon as possessing the most expert chemists in the world, had been unable to make use of the secret of his battery after it had purchased the patent rights from the Edison company before the war. For that reason the German naval supply houses had to purchase chemicals for the battery from the Edison company before the war stopped importations from this country.

Mr. Edison's statement says:

Accuses "Some Navy Man."

"These statements are amusing. I wonder who the 'naval officials' are who are so surprised at the publication of a 'navy secret' about a private company's product, with which practically all technical men have been familiar for years. There evidently is some one who has had a little honor as to take and have published matter contained in a catalogue which was sent to the officers of the United States Navy."

"Several years ago I sold my patents on the battery to a German concern. They sent their experts to my factory and chemical works and remained there two months. On their return to Germany they started large works, but never were able to make the chemicals to obtain proper results, and, before the war, I was compelled to furnish the chemicals myself. Three other European manufacturers attempted to evade the patents, but all failed to obtain the proper chemicals."

"The chemical part of the battery is one of extreme complexity. Because of manufacturing secrets and special chemical processes used to obtain the elements contained in the battery, it is impossible to imitate, let alone duplicate it. So there need be no fear that I will be as unsecretive as others and divulge this all important matter."

NEW BILL CUTS EDUCATION BOARD

Assembly Gets Dr. Finley's Home Rule Measure for Schools.

ONLY 21 MEMBERS FOR NEW YORK CITY

To Be Appointed by Mayor and Powers Enlarged—Would Oust Present Board.

[From a Staff Correspondent of The Tribune.] Albany, March 8.—The Board of Education of New York City would be reduced from 40 to 21 members under a bill prepared by the State Education Department and introduced to-day by Assemblyman Kincaid. In the other cities of the state the boards would consist of not less than three or more than nine members, and there would be no change in the method of selecting them.

The measure is known as the Home Rule bill for the school systems of the cities of the state. According to John H. Finley, State Commissioner of Education, it would simplify the present school laws and greatly add to the powers of the local school boards.

The Board of Education in New York, the new bill provides, is to be made up of five members from Manhattan, five from Kings, three from The Bronx, two from Queens and one from Richmond. The remaining five are to be chosen from the city at large, but all may not be taken from any one borough. The members of the new board are to be appointed by the Mayor so that the terms of office of one-fifth of them will expire each year, and thereafter as vacancies occur they will be filled for a term of five years.

"The Board of Education of New York City," said Dr. Finley, "will have the authority to create such machinery for the proper administration of a great school system such as exists in that city without constantly coming to the Legislature to obtain permission to meet new conditions. The provisions of the proposed measure are so flexible as to enable any city in the state to adjust its organization from year to year to meet changing conditions which the advancement and progress of the country demand in a modern system."

The bill, it is stated, will continue the present plan of financing school systems in all the cities except in New York. Under the present charter of New York there is a mandatory provision requiring the Board of Estimate to include in the school budget an amount equal to a tax of three mills upon the real and personal property of the city. The Board of Estimate may increase this amount, but the local authorities now have no discretion so far as the three mills is concerned. The proposed law eliminates the mandatory provision and requires the Board of Education to make up its own budget and submit it to the Board of Estimate. The amount requested by the board cannot exceed a tax of five mills on real and personal property, without the approval of the Board of Estimate.

"In justification of this provision," says a statement of the State Education Department, "it is asserted that as the Mayor has the power to appoint the new Board of Education, he should be

able to select a body of men and women who can be trusted to exercise the responsibility required in the administration of school funds."

Dr. Finley said that in preparing the bill his department has been in consultation with boards of education in all parts of the state, the State Teachers' Association and the State Council of City Superintendents.

Change in School Plan Will Cost About \$13,000,000

Changing the school system of New York City, according to a communication read at the meeting of the Board of Education yesterday, will cost almost \$13,000,000. The communication came from the Board of Superintendents and was the result of a conference several months ago between the Board of Education and the Board of Estimate.

To change school properties and to acquire additional property so as to abolish part-time classes by organizing schools on the duplicate plan, \$10,129,326 must be expended. Organization on the duplicate "work-study-play" plan which would require the changing of school properties and the acquisition of additional property, and to abolish part-time and also to supply work, study and play facilities for the present double session classes, would necessitate an outlay of \$12,467,784. This latter plan was formulated before the Gary plan, but is of such a nature that parts of the Gary plan could be worked out under it without increased expense.

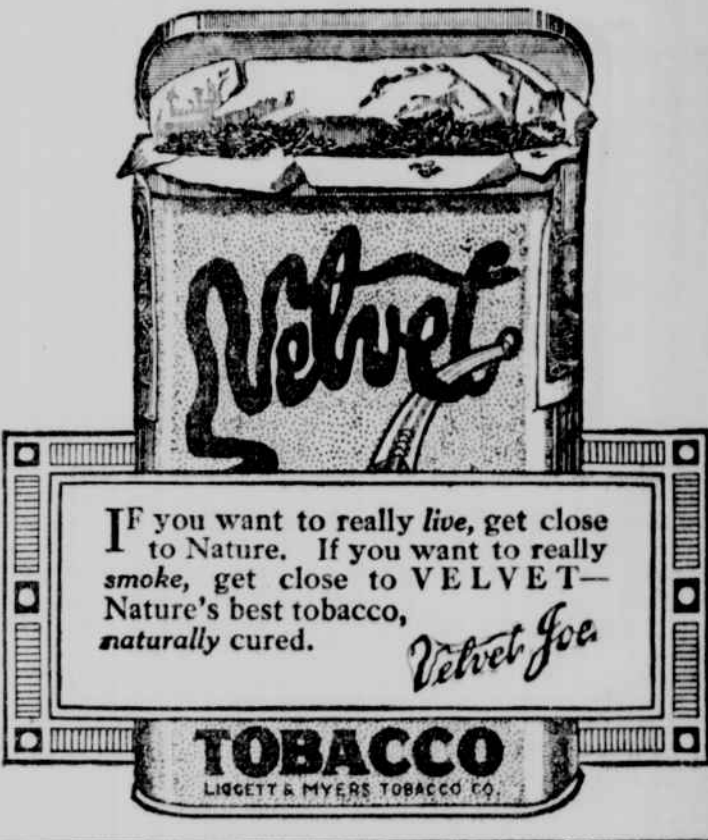
It was announced that the evening trade schools have increased this year 10 per cent in average registration and 20 per cent in attendance, while last year there was a slight falling off in both registration and attendance. This increase shows that two nights a week instead of four, as formerly, is producing better results and also saving \$48,300 a year.

To remedy the necessity of reducing the number of kindergarten teachers because of the redistribution of the budget by the Committee on Economy caused by the reduction of the budget by the Board of Estimate, it was resolved on December 15, 1915, to permit kindergarten teachers having permanent licenses to teach the grades of the first six years. This action was held up by State Superintendent Finley because of a stay obtained by the attorney for certain of the teachers, as there was an objection to kindergarten teachers teaching in primary grades. To provide relief for 208 kindergarten teachers, John Martin offered a resolution amending that of last December, and after a debate the resolution was adopted.

AID FOR RUSSIAN TOURISTS

Ivan V. Shestakovsky, agent of the Russian Volunteer Fleet, with offices at 44 Whitehall Street, has been appointed agent of the Chinese Eastern Railway Company, the route for Russian-Manchurian-Japanese through traffic via Japan and Vladivostok.

Arrangements have been completed with the Canadian Pacific Railway and its steamer service on the Pacific, making it possible for tourists from North America to get into Russia or Western Europe by the back door without passing through the war zone.



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Bureau of Investigations,
New York Tribune.

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(Signed) THOMAS M. WHYTE.

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